

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

### **Claim 1** (previously presented)

A process for the monomethylation of nitrogenous heterocycles having at least one nitrogen atom bonded to a hydrogen atom comprising reacting said heterocycle with dimethyl carbonate at a temperature of between 100°C and 200°C and at a pressure of between 0.93 to 10<sup>5</sup> Pa and 1.07 x 10<sup>5</sup> Pa while continuously withdrawing the methanol produced during the reaction.

### **Claim 2** (previously presented)

The process of claim 1, wherein the nitrogenous heterocycles have a boiling point of at least equal to 120°C.

### **Claim 3** (currently amended)

The process of claim 2, wherein the nitrogenous heterocycles are selected from the group consisting of ~~benzene derivatives~~ of azoles and benzo-fused derivatives of azoles, indoline, pyrazolidine, morpholine, piperazine and azepine.

### **Claim 4** (previously presented)

The process of claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of between 120°C and 180°C.

**Claim 5** (previously presented)

The process of claim 1, wherein the amount of dimethyl carbonate is between 1 and 5 mole per mole of nitrogenous heterocycle.

**Claim 6** (currently amended)

The process of claim 1, wherein the dimethyl carbonate is added ~~gradually~~ to the reactor medium.

**Claim 7** (currently amended)

The process of claim 6, wherein the dimethyl carbonate is introduced into the reactor medium with a flow rate of between 0.001 mol/mol of nitrogenous heterocycle-~~h~~ per hour and 1 mol/mol of nitrogenous heterocycle-~~h~~ per hour.

**Claim 8** (currently amended)

The ~~A~~ process of claim 1, for the monomethylation of nitrogenous heterocycles having at least one nitrogen atom bonded to a hydrogen atom comprising reacting said heterocycle with dimethyl carbonate at a temperature of between 100°C and 200°C and at a pressure of between 0.93 to 10<sup>5</sup> Pa and 1.07 x 10<sup>5</sup> Pa while continuously withdrawing the methanol produced during the reaction wherein the nitrogenous heterocycle comprises at least two nitrogen atoms each bonded to a hydrogen atom.

**Claim 9 (previously presented)**

The process of claim 8, wherein the monomethylated nitrogenous heterocycle is continuously withdrawn.